Poverty assessment in the country

†2387. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks 65th in the list of poor nations published in the fresh report of UNO;

(b) the difference between the Government and UNO with respect to assessment and the number;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to alleviate the poverty at accelerated pace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in its recent publication Global Hunger Index 2009 brought out that India ranks 65th in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) for 2009. The GHI 2009 is based on parameters such as the proportion of undernourished in the population, prevalence of under weight under five years and under five mortality rate. The Planning Commission uses the poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure to determine the persons living below the poverty line. Therefore, the above two exercises are based on different methodologies using different parameters and are not comparable. According to the latest poverty estimates 30.17 crore (27.5 per cent) persons were living below the poverty line in the country in 2004-05.

(d) The Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojna (SJSRY) Mid-day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Scheme, etc. These programmes primarily aim at improving the income levels of the poor and the nourishment standards of children. Similarly, the other flagship programmes like National Rural Health Mission aim at reducing the infant mortality rate.

Major problems of country

2388. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the major danger or disasters that are faced by the country; and

(b) the order of priority in terms of long term or short term in tackling these major problems like climate change. Resource Depletion including Global Meltdown, Food insecurity, population growth, poverty and economic instability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The priorities of the Government are reflected in the Five Year Plan, which is placed before the Parliament after getting approval of National Development Council (NDC). The sector-wise allocations are made accordingly,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and are reviewed at the time of discussions in Annual Plan and Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Five Year Plan.

Population below poverty line

2389. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rural as well as urban population below poverty line according to the latest estimates available with Government, State-wise;

(b) in what manner these estimates compare with the earlier estimates made since the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of the States which have not performed well so far as various poverty alleviation programmes are concerned; and

(d) the performance of Jharkhand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) According to latest available estimates based on large sample survey date on household consumer expenditure (NSS 61st Round), 27.5 per cent people were living Below the Poverty Line (based on URP Consumption) in 2004-05. In the rural areas the poverty ratio was estimated as 28.3% where as in urban areas it was 25.7% A comparable details of poverty estimates from 1983, 1993-94 and 2004-05 are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) A number of poverty alleviation programmes are being implemented by the Central Ministries Departments and the implementation of these programmes is closely monitored. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is a comprehensive wage employment programme which is demand driven. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY) is a holistic self employment programme which is being implemented in all states. During the last two years *i.e.* 2007-08 and 2008-09, the states like Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and West Bengal were not able to achieve the targets regarding the number of Swarozgaris to be assisted under the SGSY. Similarly, under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), mainly the states of Bihar, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya and West Bengal were not able to achieve the targets during 2007-08 and 2008-09. Under the Swaran Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on an average the performance of all the North-Eastern Region States, and the states of Jharkhand, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab was below average. Jharkhand was able to achieve the targets of assisting the Swarozgaris under SGSY in the last two years. Under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), the achievements were slightly less than the targets during 2007-08, however, the achievements exceeded the targets during 2008-09. Under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), wage employment of 747.54 lakh persondays and 749.97 lakh persondays were generated during 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.